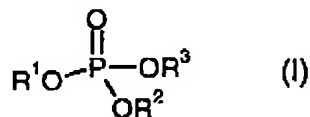


### Amendments to the Abstract

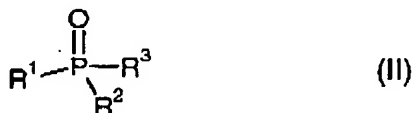
Please replace the paragraph under the section heading entitled Abstract of the Disclosure with the following amended paragraph:

~~Process~~ A process for the separation of dichlorobenzene mixtures containing m- and p-dichlorobenzene in which: ~~by extractive rectification comprising contacting~~

(i) ~~the mixture with is as an extracting agent, separating components of the mixture into an m-dichlorobenzene and p-dichlorobenzene containing fraction and finally separating the extracting agent from one of the fractions obtained, characterized in that the extracting agent used is~~ contacted with a phosphoric ester of the general formula (I) as an extracting agent



in which R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> are identical or different and represent an aliphatic or cycloaliphatic alkyl or alkenyl radical and R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> together contain at least 3 C-atoms and not more than 12 C-atoms, or a mixture of different phosphoric esters (I) of formula or is contacted with ~~of this type or~~ a phosphine oxide of the general formula (II) as an extracting agent



in which R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> are identical or different and represent an aliphatic or cycloaliphatic alkyl or alkylene radical or hydrogen, and R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> together contain at least 3 C-atoms and not more than 12 C-atoms, or a mixture of different phosphine

oxides of formula (II) ~~this type~~ or a mixture of said phosphoric esters of formula (I) and phosphine oxides of formula (II), and subsequently

(ii) the components of the mixture are separated into a m-dochlorobenzene- and a p-dichlorobenzene-containing fraction, and finally

(iii) the extracting agent is separated from one of the fractions obtained.